

IN THE CLAIMS:

*Please amend claims 1, 3-9, and 16-25 as shown in the following complete listing:*

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing a supported catalyst which comprises:
  - a) preparing a hydrogel;
  - b) milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;
  - c) producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;
  - d) drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;
  - e) applying a first treatment compound comprising at least one of a transition metal and transition metal containing compound to the support for catalysts, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and
  - f) optionally, activating the supported catalyst,
 wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:
  - at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 3 \mu\text{m}$ ; [[and/or]] and
  - at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 12 \mu\text{m}$ , [[and/or]] and
  - at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 35 \mu\text{m}$ .
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The process ~~for preparing the supported catalyst as claimed in~~ of claim 1, further comprising applying a second treatment compound to the treated support, wherein the second treatment compound comprises at least one of a transition metal and a transition metal containing compound.

4. (currently amended) The process for ~~preparing the supported catalyst as claimed in~~ of claim 1, further comprising applying to the support for catalysts at least one complex of a transition metal.
5. (currently amended) The process for ~~preparing the supported catalyst as claimed~~ of claim 1, wherein the supported catalyst is activated by an activation process selected from at least one of thermal activation, oxidation, halogenation and addition of at least one activator compound.
6. (currently amended) The process for ~~preparing the supported catalyst as claimed~~ in of claim 1, wherein the first treatment compound comprises chromium or a chromium containing compound, and the supported catalyst is activated by at least one of:
  - a) halogenation,
  - b) thermal activation in an oxidizing, reducing and/or neutral atmosphere, and
  - c) renewed thermal activation in a reducing atmosphere,wherein the thermal activation is carried out in the range from 400°C to 1000°C.
7. (currently amended) A supported catalyst prepared by the process of claim 1 a ~~process comprising~~
  - a) ~~preparing a hydrogel;~~
  - b) ~~milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;~~
  - c) ~~producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;~~
  - d) ~~drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;~~
  - e) ~~applying a first treatment compound comprising at least one of a transition metal and transition metal containing compound to the support for catalysts, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and~~
  - f) ~~optionally, activating the supported catalyst;~~wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:
  - ~~at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $>0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ; and/or~~

- ~~at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 12 \mu\text{m}$ , and/or~~
  - ~~at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 35 \mu\text{m}$ .~~
8. (currently amended) The supported catalyst as ~~claimed in~~ of claim 7 further comprising a chromium content, based on the element, ~~is from 0.1% by weight to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the supported catalyst.~~
9. (currently amended) A process ~~comprising which comprises~~ polymerizing and/or copolymerizing olefins with a supported catalyst, wherein the supported catalyst is prepared by the process of claim 1 a process comprising:
- a) ~~preparing a hydrogel;~~
  - b) ~~milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;~~
  - e) ~~producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;~~
  - d) ~~drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;~~
  - e) ~~applying a first treatment compound comprising at least one of a transition metal and transition metal containing compound to the support for catalysts, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and~~
  - f) ~~optionally, activating the supported catalyst,~~
- ~~wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:~~
- ~~at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 3 \mu\text{m}$ ; and/or~~
  - ~~at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 12 \mu\text{m}$ , and/or~~
  - ~~at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 35 \mu\text{m}$ .~~

10. (previously presented) The process of claim 9 wherein the polymerization and/or copolymerization is carried out in the presence of at least one activator compound.
11. (previously presented) The process of claim 10 wherein the activator compound is an organometallic compound.
12. (previously presented) The process of claim 9 wherein the polymerization and/or copolymerization is carried out as a gas-phase fluidized-bed process and/or a suspension process.
13. (previously presented) The process of claim 12 wherein the polymerization and/or copolymerization in the gas-phase fluidized-bed process and the supported catalyst has a mean particle size of the catalyst particles in the range from 30  $\mu\text{m}$  to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .
14. (previously presented) The process of claim 12 wherein the polymerization and/or copolymerization is carried out in the suspension process and the supported catalyst has a mean particle size of the catalyst particles in the range from 30  $\mu\text{m}$  to 350  $\mu\text{m}$ .
15. (previously presented) The process of claim 13 wherein, in a polymerization and/or copolymerization in the gas-phase fluidized-bed process, the proportion of discharged polymer having a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$  is  $\leq 15\%$  by weight based on the total weight of the product.
16. (currently amended) An olefin polymer obtained from polymerizing and/or copolymerizing olefins with a supported catalyst, wherein the supported catalyst is prepared by the process of claim 1 a process comprising:
  - a) ~~preparing a hydrogel;~~
  - b) ~~milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;~~
  - c) ~~producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;~~
  - d) ~~drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;~~
  - e) ~~applying a first treatment compound comprising at least one of a transition metal and transition metal containing compound to the support for catalysts, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and~~
  - f) ~~optionally, activating the supported catalyst;~~

~~wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:~~

- ~~- at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ; and/or~~
- ~~- at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 12\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , and/or~~
- ~~- at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 35\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .~~

17. (currently amended) A fiber, film or molding comprising polymers obtained from polymerizing and/or copolymerizing olefins with a supported catalyst, wherein the supported catalyst is prepared by the process of claim 1 a process comprising:

- a) ~~preparing a hydrogel;~~
- b) ~~milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;~~
- e) ~~producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;~~
- d) ~~drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;~~
- e) ~~applying a first treatment compound comprising at least one of a transition metal and transition metal-containing compound to the support for catalysts, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and~~
- f) ~~optionally, activating the supported catalyst;~~

~~wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:~~

- ~~- at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ; and/or~~
- ~~- at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 12\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , and/or~~
- ~~- at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 35\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .~~

18. (currently amended) The process ~~according to claim 2~~ of claim 1 wherein the transition metals are selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Cr, Fe, Ni, and Pd.
19. (currently amended) The process ~~according to~~ of claim 3 wherein the transition metals are selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Cr, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn and Pd.
20. (currently amended) The process ~~according to~~ of claim 4 wherein the at least one complex of a transition metal is a metallocene compound.
21. (currently amended) The process ~~according to~~ of claim 20 wherein the metallocene compound comprises a transition metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Cr, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn and Pd.
22. (currently amended) The process ~~according to~~ of claim 5 wherein the thermal activation is calcination.
23. (currently amended) The process ~~according to~~ of claim 5 wherein the halogenation is fluorination.
24. (currently amended) The process ~~according to~~ of claim 6 where the thermal activation is carried out in the range from 450°C to 900°C.
25. (currently amended) The supported catalyst ~~according to~~ of claim 8 wherein the chromium content is from 0.2% by weight to 1.5% by weight.
26. (previously presented) The process of claim 11 wherein the organometallic compound comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Zn and Si.
27. (previously presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the mean particle size of the catalyst particles are in the range from 40  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .
28. (previously presented) The process of claim 14 wherein the mean particle size of the catalyst particles are in the range from 40  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .
29. (previously presented) The process of claim 15 wherein the proportion of discharged polymer having a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$  is  $\leq 5\%$  by weight.

30. (previously presented) The process of claim **29** wherein the proportion of discharged polymer having a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$  is  $\leq 3\%$  by weight.
31. (previously presented) The process of claim **30** wherein the proportion of discharged polymer having a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 125 \mu\text{m}$  is from 0.3% by weight to 2% by weight.